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SOURCE Giornale di Trieste.

REPORTS SOVIET PLAN TO MELT ARCTIC GLACIERS
BY USING ATOM, HYDROGEN BOMBS

On 15 November 1950, Neues Europa, a semimonthly periodical published in Zurich, published a report concerning a colossal USSR project to melt the ice-covered areas of the North Pole by means of atom, hydrogen, and helium bombs.

The same Swiss periodical carried in its last issue an article by an atomic scientist, with the initials H.K.D., which stated that the USSR project, considering the present stage of atomic research, may have 80 percent probability of success.

The Russians have been striving for centuries to realize the ancient ambition of the Tsars to have a sea under their own control. The USSR leaders hope to attain this objective by melting the ice of the Arctic Ocean and the polar regions within the next 3-5 years by creating very high temperatures through the use of atomic energy.

A hydrothermal power expert has expressed the following opinion on the project.

A cursory look at the map, he said, shows that the USSR has only a few northern ports which are open all year for navigation. The ports of Vladivostok and Murmansk are frozen 6 months of the year. Military operations during World War II were frequently jeopardized because of the difficulty of docking ships in the port of Murmansk.

The USSR leaders expect that once the Arctic Ocean is freed from its ice cover, regular maritime communications throughout the entire year could be established between the ports of Siberia and Northern Asia and the ports of Great Britain, Canada, and America.

This project may appear fantastic and a product of the feverish minds of the men in the Kremlin, but it is nevertheless feasible because of the advanced stage of atomic science. The North Pole, unlike the South Pole, has solid ground with gigantic masses of ice about 10 meters thick. These masses of ice are not a product of the arctic climate. On the contrary, it is their existence which brought about the severe climatic conditions of that area.

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The North Pole has never been freed from its heavy ice cover because the sun's rays are reflected by the white color of the massive ice surface. This situation will continue forever unless the arctic ice is melted by artificial means. After that, the North Pole areas will never resume their present climatic features, except for the winter months when light ice blankets will appear and again disappear with the arrival of the spring season. Should the USSR project of melting the polar areas succeed, there will be a change in the climatic and atmospheric conditions of northern Siberia, Norway, Finland, Alaska, and Greenland; in general, there will be much milder winter weather on the entire European continent.

The progress of modern atomic science has reached a point where the melting of a million square kilometers of ice may be considered within the realm of possibility. Atomic energy provides the means of attaining high temperatures. Atom and hydrogen bombs may be produced at a lower cost in the near future and would then be used in larger numbers to melt the ice expanses of the polar regions.

One hydrogen bomb is estimated to have the capacity to melt 20 square kilometers of ice 10 meters thick. It is likely that 480 bombs would free the Arctic Ocean from its layer of ice.

Recent studies have been concentrated on building a floating central atomic plant capable of generating very high temperatures. These floating plants will be radio controlled because no human being could possibly stand the effect of the heat and remain alive.

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